



Rising Star – Jasmine Jackson

Job Corps Graduate and USDA, Forest Service Employee



With the Forest Service – The Sky is the Limit

Jasmine Jackson has worked for the Forest Service in the Regional Office of the Eastern Region since July 2009. She graduated from Alverno College in 2014 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Community Leadership and Development / Professional Communications. She currently works as a permanent, full-time Office Automation Assistant for the Budget Performance and Accountability Staff where her “training in professional communications has been a real plus.” Prior to that, between July 2009 and March 2011, she worked in the Civil Rights Staff.

Jasmine serves as the President of the Region’s Toastmaster Club providing leadership to its members and working with her team to create effective meetings.

“I love the work that I do,” says

Jasmine. “Knowing I can be a support and help someone get their work done just does something for me.”

Where does she see herself in a few years? Definitely with the Forest Service, this is her family now. And perhaps a director position within Job Corps. She is passionate about making a contribution and mentoring other young people.

Job Corps Gave Me a New Take On Reality

Jasmine came to the Blackwell Job Corps in 2008 as a young mother with no job, no high school diploma, and pretty bleak outlook on her future. She had lost her focus for her studies and was beginning to struggle in her academics. Her priorities were hanging out with her friends.

She reflected that “Reality did not hit me until reality hit [joining the Job Corps]!” Jasmine said it took her awhile to find her voice and to that she had the strength and intelligence to make a contribution. She remembers the challenges of learning to manage projects, meet deadlines, manage her own time, and communicate effectively.

Jackson credits the Job Corps with giving her real-world training and preparing her to be competitive for a position with the Forest Service. In fact she said that she did not find the Forest Service, but that the Forest Service found her.

I had the Opportunity to Pay It Forward

Jasmine said that a big part of her success is the mentors in her life. She said that Darrell Woods, her current supervisor gives her the freedom to take on new challenges and try different projects and trusts her in areas that require a high degree of responsibility.

She also mentioned that Clara Johnson’s support and guidance was invaluable. “Clara hired me into the Forest Serve,” says Jasmine. “I could count on her for honest and direct advice and she always placed me with great supervisors who invested in me as a person.”

Jasmine recently had the opportunity to give back as part of the Pay It Forward initiative. She recently spoke to the students at the Blackwell Job Corps and shared her story in candid terms. Jasmine encouraged them to stay the course, to trust that they can make a difference and to believe that they are somebody. She received a standing ovation for her presentation and was invited back to speak at their graduation.

